

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/511,752

Examiner

Kiran B. Patel

Applicant(s)

LONGO, THOMAS W.

Art Unit

3612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 2/2/6.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 25.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>2/2/6</u> . |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Examiner's Amendment and
Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
Allowance (2/2/06)

1. An Examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this Examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Hilliard.

2. The claims and/or the application was amended to read as follows:

1.-24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) A collision energy-absorbing device ~~according to claim 24~~, for mounting between a frame assembly of a motor vehicle and a bumper beam at one end of the motor vehicle, said collision energy-absorbing device comprising:

a substantially tubular body member configured to be operatively connected between the vehicle frame assembly and the bumper beam, said body member

being constructed and arranged to collapse as said bumper beam and said vehicle frame assembly are moved relatively toward one another during a vehicle collision,

said body member having a substantially tubular first telescoping portion and a substantially tubular second telescoping portion, said first and second telescoping portions being connected by a connecting portion, said first and second telescoping portions having different cross-sectional dimensions configured to enable said first and second telescoping portions to move one within the other into collapsing telescoping relation as said body member collapses with said connecting portion being deformed and received between said first and second telescoping portions,

said body member further including one or more protrusions extending from one of said first and second telescoping portions, said protrusions being configured to interfere with relative movement of the other of said first and second telescoping portions as said body member collapses to thereby retard movement of said first and second telescoping portions one within the other into said telescoping relation; and

a lost motion connecting structure carried on the body member for connection to the bumper beam, the lost motion connecting structure configured and positioned to allow the bumper beam to move relatively away from the body member during an offset collision laterally opposite the device,

wherein the lost motion connecting structure includes a hinge plate assembly having a first mounting plate and a second mounting plate pivotally connected by a hinge, one of the first and second mounting plates being connected to the body member and the other of the first and second mounting plates being connected to the bumper beam,

wherein the hinge plate assembly is movable from a closed position in which the first and second mounting plates are adjacent one another to an open position in which the first and second mounting plates are pivoted relative to one another during the offset collision.

26.-61. (Cancelled)

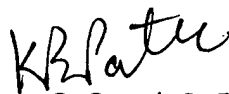
3. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The primary reason for the allowance of the claims in this case, is the inclusion of the limitation "body member further including one or more protrusions extending from one of said first and second telescoping portions, said protrusions being configured to interfere with relative movement of the other of said first and second telescoping portions as said body member collapses to thereby retard movement of said first and second telescoping portions one within the other into said telescoping relation; and a lost motion connecting structure carried on the body member for connection to the bumper beam, the lost motion connecting structure configured and positioned to allow the bumper beam to move relatively away from the body member during an offset collision laterally opposite the device, wherein the lost motion connecting structure includes a hinge plate assembly having a first mounting plate and a second mounting plate pivotally connected by a hinge, one of the first and second mounting plates being connected to the body member and the other of the first and second mounting plates being connected to the bumper beam, wherein the hinge plate assembly is movable from a closed position in which the first and second mounting plates are adjacent one another to an open

position in which the first and second mounting plates are pivoted relative to one another during the offset collision" in the independent claim, in combination with the other recited limitations in claims supported by this application, which are not found in the prior art of record.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications should be directed to Primary Examiner Kiran B. Patel whose telephone number is 571-272-6665. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 8:00 to 5:00. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.


Kiran B. Patel, P. E.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3612
February 2, 2006